

VZCZCXRO9520

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DE RUEHVIL #0796 2671451
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 231451Z SEP 08
FM AMEMBASSY VILNIUS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2862
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
RHMFIUU/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS VILNIUS 000796

SIPDIS

EUR/ERA:MBEH
OES/EGC:DNELSON
WARSAW FOR FAS:EWENBERG AND FCS:JMCCASLIN
DOE:MAPICELLI

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR SENV ENRG TRGY LH
SUBJECT: GOL UNDERSTANDS AND SUPPORTS EU BIOFUELS
INITIATIVES

REF: SECSTATE 99217

The GOL shows no division, understands and supports EU biofuel initiatives in the context of the EU 20-20-20 efforts. Representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Economy and the Environment told us on September 18 that Lithuania will meet EU goals in 2010 as well as 2020 for biofuels as well as renewable energy as a portion of the overall energy supply. The GOL representatives expressed no reservations and a clear understanding of EU mandates regarding biofuels including proposals for sustainability. Vytautas Krusinkas, the head of the Atmosphere Division of the Ministry of the Environment, said the existence of an EU directive makes implementing biofuel standards easier in Lithuania than if the decision had only been taken by the GOL. We identified no disagreement between the Agriculture, Economy or Environment ministries on the need or ability of the GOL and Lithuanian biofuel producers to reach EU mandates. All felt the goals will be met, saw no reason not to pursue the mandates and predicted passage of the Renewable Fuels Directive within a year's time. We shared with each of our GOL contacts a non-paper based on talking points from reftel taking care to stress the U.S. commitment to sustainable biofuels and the development of common sustainability criteria.

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